

The Syntax of Comparative Constructions

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Modul/Studiengang: AM 3a / ATL; AM3a / CL

Leistungspunkte: 6

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Description

The aim of this course is to provide an overview of the syntax of comparative constructions, introducing students to the most important issues concerning the topic that have been addressed in the literature from the 1970s onwards. Though all of these questions are strongly related to comparatives, we will see that providing an adequate answer to them has a bearing on other structures too. In particular, we are going to discuss the structure of degree expressions, the phenomenon of Comparative Deletion, some diachronic changes affecting the formation of comparative subclauses, as well as the role of various optional ellipsis phenomena taking place in the subclause. The course is intended to take a cross-linguistic perspective: although we will mostly be concentrating on English, there will be several other languages to be dealt with, such as German, Dutch and Hungarian, and, to a lesser degree, Italian, Czech and Polish.

Requirements:

- two reading assignments with tasks (50%)
- one short home paper (50%)